IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A needle device for use in intradermal coloring, comprising: a set of intradermal color introduction needles, with the needles of said set having axes of elongation falling on a common plane and each of said needles having a pointed application end, said set of needles including a first sub-set ~~subset~~ of needles with pointed application ends arranged along a first contact edge and a second sub-set ~~subset~~ of needles with pointed application ends arranged along a second contact edge that is non-coincident with the first contact edge, and wherein at least one intermediate positioned needle extends out farther than a less intermediate positioned needle within the set.

2. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said first contact edge is arranged along a horizontal line when said needle device is vertically oriented.

3. (Original) The device of claim 2 wherein said second contact edge extends obliquely relative to said first contact edge arranged along the horizontal line.

4. (Original) The device of claim 3 wherein said second contact edge defines an angle of 10° to 60° relative to the horizontal line.

5. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein said angle is from 20° to 50°.

6. (Original) The device of claim 4 wherein said angle is from 30° to 45°.

7. (Currently Amended) A needle device, comprising: a set of needles, with the needles of said set having axes of elongation falling on a common plane and each of said needles having a pointed application end, said set of needles including a first sub-set of needles with pointed application ends arranged along a first contact

edge and a second sub-set of needles with pointed application ends arranged along a second contact edge that is non-coincident with the first contact edge; and

~~The device of claim 1~~ wherein said first and said second sub-sets of needles are of different grades.

8. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein one of said first and said second sub-sets has a finer taper than the other of said first and said second sub-sets.

9. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 8 wherein said finer taper sub-set of needles has a smaller shaft diameter than said other of said first and said second sub-sets.

10. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said first sub-set of needles presents a different number of needle points along the first contact edge relative to the second contact edge.

11. (Original) The device of claim 10 wherein said first contact edge is arranged along a horizontal line and said second contact edge extends obliquely up away from said horizontal line and has a greater number of needle points than the needle points defining said first contact edge.

12. (Original) The device of claim 11 wherein a ratio range of needle points of said second contact edge relative to said first contact edge is 2/1 to 6/1.

13. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein said first contact edge extends obliquely up and away from a horizontal reference plane and said second contact edge extends obliquely up and away from the horizontal plane.

14. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 13 wherein said second contact edge presents 8 needle tips and said first contact edge presents 2 needle tips with each contact edge inclusive of a shared needle point.

15. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein said first and said second contact edges share a common single needle point edge representing a vertex of an angle defined by said obliquely oriented first and said second contact edge.

16. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein said first and said second contact edges have a different number of needle points.

17. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1 wherein the needle points of the first and said second contact edges are in a ratio of 1.5/1 to 3/1.

18. (Original) The device of claim 17 wherein the number of needle points defining said first contact edge is 8 and the number of needle points defining said second contact edge is 4 with each inclusive of a common vertex needle point.

19. (Original) The device of claim 1 wherein adjacent needles in said needle set are fixed together and lie in a common plane.

20. (Original) The device of claim 19 wherein said needles are fixed together at the non-application ends of said needle set, and free ends of said non-application ends lie along edge lines that are parallel to first and second contact ends.

21. (Original) The needle device of claim 1 further comprising a third sub-set of needles having pointed application ends arranged non-coincident with respect to said first and second contact edges.

22. (Original) The device as recited in claim 21 wherein said first contact edge is arranged along a horizontal line, said second contact edge extends obliquely up away from the

horizontal line to one side of said first contact edge and said third contact edge extends obliquely from the horizontal line to a second side of said first contact edge.

23. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 22 wherein said second and said third contact edges having different slope angles.

24. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 23 wherein said second and said third contact edges have at least a 10° difference.

25. (Original) The device as recited in claim 24 wherein said second contact edge has a 30° angle and said third contact edge has a 45° angle.

26. (Original) The device as recited in claim 21 wherein said first contact edge extends along a horizontal line, said second contact edge extends obliquely from a common needle point with said first contact edge and said third contact edge has a different slope than said second contact edge.

27. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21 wherein at least two of said first, said second and said third contact edges present a different number of needle points.

28. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21 wherein at least two of said first, said second and said third contact edges are defined by needles of a different grade.

29. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 28 wherein each of said first, said second and said third contact edges are defined by needles of a different grade.

30. (Original) A colorant implement apparatus, comprising:
the needle device of claim 1; and
a tool to support said needle device.

31. (Original) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said tool includes means for reciprocating said needle.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of providing intradermal coloring to a recipient, comprising:

supplying colorant to a [[the]] needle device which comprises a set of needles, with the needles of said set having axes of elongation falling on a common plane and each of said needles having a pointed application end, said set of needles including a first sub-set of needles with pointed application ends arranged along a first contact edge and a second sub-set of needles with pointed application ends arranged along a second contact edge that is non-coincident with the first contact edge ~~of claim 1~~; and

penetrating a skin region of the recipient to alter coloring of the skin region.

33. (Currently Amended) A needle device for use in intradermal coloring, comprising:

a set of intradermal color introduction needles, with the needles of said set having axes of elongation falling on a common plane and said set of needles being arranged in a first and a second sub-set of needles with the first sub-set having a plurality of needle points arranged along a first line of extension and said second sub-set having a plurality of needle points arranged along a second line of extension non-coincident with said first line of extension, and wherein said first and second lines of extension converge toward an outermost free end of said needle set.

34. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 33 wherein each of said first and said second lines of extension are oblique relative to a horizontal reference plane when the needle device is in a vertical orientation.

35. (Original) The device of claim 34 wherein the needles of said first sub-set are different in configuration than that of said second sub-set.

36. (Original) The device of claim 34 wherein the number of needle points in said first sub-set is different than that in said second sub-set.

37. (Original) The needle device of claim 34 wherein said first line of extension is horizontal and said second line of extension oblique relative to the first line of extension and said second line is defined by a greater number of needle points than that of said first sub-set.

38. (Original) The needle device of claim 37 wherein the needle points of said second sub-set has a sharper taper than that of said first sub-set.

39. (Currently Amended) A needle device for use in intradermal coloring, comprising:

a plurality of intradermal color introduction needles arranged in a common plane and fixed in relationship to each other, said needles presenting needle points arranged at different distances from a reference horizontal plane contacting a lower most needle point of said plurality of needles, and

the relative distances of said needle points being set so as to provide at least two different non-coincidental needle tip contact edges, which edges diverge in going from the outermost needle point toward the reference horizontal plane.

40. (Original) The device of claim 39 wherein three different non-coincident edges are provided.

41. (Original) The device of claim 39 including a straight edge and two oblique edges.

42. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a needle device, comprising:

providing a number of individual needles in a side-by-side orientation in a die;
adjusting the die so as to present an oblique line of needle points arranged on a first contact edge and one other non-coincident line of needle points representing a second contact edge, with the

axes of elongation of the needles defining said first and second contact edges lying in a common plane; and

fixing the needles in position relative to each other following adjusting the die.

43. (Previously Presented) A needle device as recited in claim 46 wherein said needle set includes a plurality of needles that are multi-faceted and have increased area surface texture.

44. (Original) The needle device as recited in claim 43 wherein said needle points are trocar points.

45. (Previously Presented) The needle device as recited in claim 44 wherein edges between trocar faces are rounded edges extending for at least 5% of an overall circumference extending along the edges.

46. (Currently Amended) A needle device for use in intradermal color introduction comprising a set of intradermal color introduction needles each having a pointed application end, said set of needles defining a non-linear contact edging pathway, which is suited for skin contact manipulation by the user, extending between a leftmost end needle and a rightmost end needle relative to a common plane defined by said needle set, and wherein the leftmost needle of said non-linear contact edging pathway suited for skin contact manipulation extends out a different length relative to the rightmost end needle suited for skin contact manipulation and wherein an intramediate one of said needles falling between said leftmost and rightmost needles extends out farther than at least one of said leftmost and rightmost needles.

47. (Previously Presented) The needle device of claim 46 wherein said non-linear contact edging is defined by a plurality of contact edges which each contain a first subset of needles with pointed application ends arranged along a first contact edge and a second subset of needles with pointed application ends arranged along a second contact edge that is non-coincident with the first contact edge.

48. (Canceled).

49. (Previously Presented) The needle device as recited in claim 46 wherein said needle set includes an extension needle extending farther than all other needles in said set, with said extension needle being non-centered within said set of needles relative to a common plane for said set of needles.

50. (Currently Amended) The needle device as recited in claim 49 wherein ~~the leftmost needle extends out farther than the rightmost needle and~~ said extension needle is positioned between the leftmost needle and a center location of said needle set relative to said common plane.

51. (New) The needle device of claim 46 wherein said non-linear contact edging is relative to an overall left to right non-linear contact edging pathway extending from the leftmost end needle to a rightmost end needle, and wherein said non-linear contact edging pathway is defined by a plurality of linear contact edge segments which comprise a first sub-set of needles with pointed application ends arranged along a first linear contact edge and a second sub-set of needles with pointed application ends arranged along a second linear contact edge that is non-coincident with the first contact edge.